This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ for recovering argon by low-temperature separation of air in a rectification system having first, second and third ~~, which has three~~ rectifying sections arranged in series, ~~whereby the~~ said first and ~~the~~ second rectifying sections being connected to one another on the gas and liquid sides, and said ~~as well as the~~ second and third rectifying sections being ~~in each case are~~ connected to one another on the gas and liquid sides, and said ~~whereby the~~ second rectifying section having ~~has~~ two subsections, which are not connected to one another on the gas and liquid sides and are arranged ~~flushed~~ in a parallel manner, each of said subsections being in fluid communication with said first rectifying section and said third rectifying section ~~whereby~~ said process comprising:

introducing a fluid that contains oxygen and argon ~~is introduced~~ into the first of said two subsections of said second rectifying section, and removing a stream (13) that contains oxygen and argon ~~is removed in the~~ from said second of the two subsections of said second rectifying section, and ~~characterized in that the~~

wherein the argon concentration in the stream (13) ~~that is~~ removed from said ~~in~~ second subsection (7, 30) is between 15% and 50%~~, preferably between 15% and 40%, especially preferably between 20% and 35%~~.

2. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said first, second and third rectifying sections are in an ~~system has at least one~~ air separation column (4) ~~with three rectifying sections (19, 20, 21, 22) that are arranged in a series,~~

~~whereby~~ and said second rectifying section (20, 21) has a partition (5) that runs in lengthwise direction of the column, by which said second rectifying section in said air separation column (4) is divided into said ~~a~~ first subsection (6) and said ~~a~~ second subsection (7) ~~at the level of partition (5)~~.

3. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein said ~~the~~ rectifying system has at least a first air separation column (4) and a second column (30), wherein said air separation column (4) contains said first rectifying section, said third rectifying section, and said first subsection of said second rectifying section, and said second column (30) is said second subsection of said second rectifying section ~~which are connected at intermediate points of first air separation column (4) at their upper end and their lower end on the gas and liquid sides, whereby section (20, 21) that is placed between the intermediate points of the first air separation column and second column (30) form the two subsections~~.

4. (Cancelled):

5. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising feeding said stream (13) ~~that is~~ removed from said second subsection (7, 30) ~~is fed~~ to a crude argon column (14).

6. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 5, wherein bottom liquid from said crude argon column (14) is returned to said second subsection (7, 30).

7. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 5, ~~wherein~~ further comprising removing argon ~~is obtained with~~ having a purity of more than 95%~~, preferably more than 98%, in~~ from said crude argon column (14).

8. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 5, ~~wherein~~ further comprising removing argon ~~is obtained with~~ having an oxygen content of less than 10 ppm ~~in~~ from said crude argon column (14).

9. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 5, wherein said crude argon column (14) has more than 100~~, preferably 150 to 200~~ theoretical plates.

10. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 1, wherein packings are used for rectification at least in part in said first, second and third rectifying sections (19, 20, 21, 22).

11. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 10, wherein ~~the~~ fluid containing ~~that contains~~ oxygen and argon is collected and/or distributed ~~in each case~~ between said first and second ~~two~~ rectifying sections and between said second and third ~~two~~ rectifying sections ~~and/or distributed~~ (23, 24, 25~~, 26, 27~~).

12. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ gaseous fluid ~~that contains~~ containing oxygen and argon that rises ~~in gaseous form in the~~ within said rectifying system experiences the same pressure loss in said first and ~~in~~ second subsections (6, 7).

13. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~the~~ rectifying system comprises ~~has~~ a pressure column (2) and a low-pressure column (4), and said first, second and third rectifying sections are in said low-pressure column (4), wherein said second rectifying section (20, 21) has a ~~whereby~~ partition (5) by which said second rectifying section is divided into said first subsection (6) and said second subsection ~~is arranged in low-pressure column (4)~~, and said fluid that contains oxygen and argon which is introduced into said first subsection is a ~~whereby~~ a fluid (3), concentrated with oxygen, which is removed from said pressure column (2) ~~is introduced into first subsection (6)~~.

14. (New): A process according to claim 1, wherein the argon concentration in the stream (13) removed from said second subsection (7, 30) is between 15% and 40%.

15. (New): A process according to claim 1, wherein the argon concentration in the stream (13) removed from said second subsection (7, 30) is between 20% and 35%.

16. (New): A process according to Claim 7, further comprising removing argon having a purity of more than 98% from said crude argon column (14).

17. (New): A process according to Claim 5, wherein said crude argon column (14) has 150 to 200 theoretical plates.

18. (New): A process for recovering argon by low-temperature separation of air in a rectification system, said process comprising:

providing a high-pressure column, a low-pressure column and an argon column, said low-pressure column having first, second and third rectifying sections arranged in series, said first and second rectifying sections being connected to one another on the gas and liquid sides, and said second and third rectifying sections being connected to one another on the gas and liquid sides, and said second rectifying section having two subsections, which are not connected to one another on the gas and liquid sides and are arranged in a parallel manner, each of said subsections being in fluid communication with said first rectifying section and said third rectifying section;

introducing air into said high-pressure column and removing a first fluid stream containing oxygen and argon from the bottom of said high-pressure column;

introducing said fluid stream containing oxygen and argon from the bottom of said high-pressure column into said first subsection of said second rectifying section, and removing a second fluid stream containing oxygen and argon from said second subsection of said second rectifying section, wherein the argon concentration in said second fluid stream containing oxygen and argon is between 15% and 50%;

introducing said second fluid stream containing oxygen and argon into said argon column, removing product argon from the top of said argon column, and removing a liquid stream containing oxygen from the bottom of said argon column;

introducing said liquid stream containing oxygen from the bottom of said argon stream into said second subsection of said second rectifying section, removing product oxygen from the bottom of said low-pressure column, and removing product nitrogen form the top of said low-pressure column.

19. (New): A process according to claim 18, wherein the argon concentration in

said second fluid stream containing oxygen and argon is between 15% and 40%;

20. (New): A process according to claim 18, wherein the argon concentration in said second fluid stream containing oxygen and argon is between 20% and 35%;